GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6070
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2005
CONTAMINATED WATER IN RAIL NEER
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that empty bottles of 'Rail Neer' filled with contaminated water are being sold at railway stations ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof ;

(c) whether there is any system to check the quality of packed water bottles being sold at railway stations ; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) Yes, Sir. The news channel India TV on 06.01.2005 had shown some urchins filling empty Rail Neer bottles from tap water for the purpose of selling it.

(b) The act of buying and selling contaminated water was nowhere shown. Only some urchins filling the Rail Neer bottles were shown.

(c) & (d) There is a regular check by the Railways at railway stations to ensure that only properly sealed water bottles are sold. Bottled water brands for sale at railway stations have to follow stringent norms set up by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Only those brands which are approved by BIS are given for sale to the passengers. Special drives are launched from time to time to ensure that there is no unauthorized selling of non-branded water.